Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Leif Erikson is the first European known with certainty to have set foot in the New World, which Erikson called "Vinland"; and,

Whereas, Modern research has confirmed the evidence of Viking settlements along the North American Atlantic coast where ropes, mooring stones and other implements of colonization have been found; and,

Whereas, It is noteworthy that Leif Erikson was the eldest son of Erik the Red, discoverer of Greenland; and,

Whereas, Leif Erikson was converted to Christianity by Norway's King Olav Tryggvason in the year 1000, who commissioned him to proclaim Christianity in Iceland and Greenland, whereupon Leif boldly sailed his ship through the unknown northern seas, determined to fulfill the King's command. However, a violent storm threw his vessel off course, and he arrived instead on unfamiliar land; and,

Whereas, The achievements of Leif Erikson were recognized in 1930 when the United States Congress commissioned a bronze monument of Leif Erikson for presentation to Iceland, which was placed in Reykjavik, Iceland's capital city and the United States Congress enacted public law on September 2, 1964, to designate October 9 Leif Erikson Day:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim October 9, 2004, as

LEIF ERIKSON DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-eighth Day of September in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Four.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State